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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

[Item#1](#)

The Cancun Agreements on Climate Change. Brookings Institution. Nathan Hultman. December 14, 2010.

In contrast to the high profile of last year's meeting in Copenhagen, expectations for this year's recent meeting in Cancun were modest. Negotiators' mantra was to reach a "balanced package" of measures

that would advance climate protection; at the same time, they studiously avoided, or tried to avoid, the contentious issues of assigning emissions reductions commitments. Discussions were helped by deft diplomacy on the part of the Mexican hosts, the willingness of many countries to tone down more strident rhetoric and enter into compromises, and a seemingly shared sense that the multilateral, U.N.-based process needed to be set back on track.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1214_climate_hultman.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

“DPRK “Collapse” Pathways: Implications for the Energy Sector and for Strategies of Redevelopment/Support” Center for Strategic & International Studies. Peter Hayes and David Von Hippel. December 15, 2010.

The prospect for the DPRK (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea) and its leadership is bleak. Kim Jong Il’s health is poor, so a succession is conceivable, albeit off unknown probability. There is little chance that the economic poverty of almost all North Koreans will change for the better. The external powers will continue to squeeze the DPRK with sanctions, especially the United States. Hyperinflation is in the cards in the aftermath of the currency redenomination failure. External aid will be minimal so long as the nuclear weapons issue remains unresolved.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://csis.org/files/publication/101215_Collapse_Pathways_North_Korea.pdf [PDF format, 23 pages].

Item#3

Financial Crisis Primer: Questions and Answers on the Causes of the Financial Crisis. American Enterprise Institute. Bill Thomas. December 15, 2010.

This primer contains preliminary findings and conclusions released by Bill Thomas, Keith Hennessey, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, and Peter J. Wallison, and represents a portion of the findings and conclusions resulting from their work on the FCIC.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/FinancialCrisisPrimer.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages].

Item#4

Global Publics Embrace Social Networking. Pew Research Center Global Attitudes Project. December 15, 2010.

Although still a relatively young technology, social networking is already a global phenomenon. In regions around the world, and in countries with varying levels of economic development, people who

use the internet are using it for social networking. And this is particularly true of young people. Meanwhile, other forms of technology are also increasingly popular across the globe. Cell phone ownership and computer usage have grown significantly over the last three years, and they have risen dramatically since 2002.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewglobal.org/files/2010/12/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Technology-Report-FINAL-December-15-2010.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#5

International Grantmaking Update: A Snapshot of U.S. Foundation Trends. Foundation Center. Steven Lawrence and Reina Mukai. December 13, 2010.

“Contrary to some fears, foundations did not abandon international grantmaking during the economic crisis,” said Bradford K. Smith, president of the Foundation Center. “These findings demonstrate their firm commitment to addressing global issues.” The slight decrease in international giving in 2009 followed a period of significant growth between 2006 and 2008, as documented in the report, which tracks giving for both overseas recipients and U.S.-based international programs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/intl_update_2010.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#6

Lessons Learned from U.S. Government Law Enforcement in International Operations. Strategic Studies Institute. Dilshika Jayamaha et al. December 15, 2010.

The authors investigate how the full range of law enforcement capabilities available to the U.S. Government has been applied in pursuit of U.S. strategic objectives in Panama, Colombia, and Kosovo. This analysis identifies a number of lessons to be learned about the use of such capabilities (in a holistic sense) in current and future international operations.

Full Text:

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1034> [HTML format with links].

Item#7

The Post-WikiLeaks World – Part I. YaleGlobal. Jamsheed K. Choksy. December 15, 2010.

Behind closed doors, government officials often relay sentiments that differ from public proclamations, and the public takes this for granted. But release of classified U.S. State Department cables via WikiLeaks has exposed hundreds of specific examples, shocking in their rawness. The release underlines the promises and perils of fast global communications. It is a world where an individual can disrupt global strategic plans, and all-powerful governments scramble to contain the damage. It's a dramatic display of the contradictions between private and public pronouncements and between calls for freedom of

expression and the need for secrecy. Jamsheed K. Choksy focuses on the impact of the leaked cables on Iran's nuclear policy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/post-wiki-world-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

The Post-WikiLeaks World – Part II. YaleGlobal. Rebecca Wexler. December 17, 2010.

After WikiLeaks released secret diplomatic cables, the U.S. government strives to apologize for sensitive breaches in confidences and punish all involved. Internet privacy is elusive for both individuals and powerful institutions, and the series examines responses to leaks from governments and internet chat forums. The second article describes a motley group of strangers who apply collective force online, engaging in acts of civil disobedience in support of internet freedom.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/post-wiki-world-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

The Role of Transportation in Driving Climate Disruption. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Deborah Gordon. December 16, 2010.

The Earth's rapidly warming temperatures over the past several decades cannot be explained by natural processes alone. The science is conclusive: both man-made and natural factors contribute to climate change. Human activities— fossil-fuel combustion in transportation and other sectors, urbanization, and deforestation—are increasing the amount of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. These record levels of greenhouse gases are shifting the Earth's climate equilibrium, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/transport_climate_disruption.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages].

Item#10

Sino-U.S. Competition and U.S. Security: How Do We Assess the Military Balance. National Bureau of Asian Research. Dan Blumenthal. December 2010.

The essay argues that scholars and analysts can help policymakers advance U.S. interests in Asia by assessing the dynamic Sino-U.S. balance of power in the region.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.nbr.org/publications/analysis/pdf/free/A10_Sino_U.S._Competition.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].